

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY AF:DTIERNEY

APPROVED BY AF:WESCHAUFLE,JR.

S/S:RGAMBLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 003218

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USUN FOR SCRANTON, LONDON FOR SEITZ

FOL RPT GABORONE 0032 ACTION SECSTATE 4 JAN QUOTE

S E C R E T GABORONE 0032

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY AND SCHAUFLE FROM EDMONDSON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, RH

SUBJECT: BRITISH CONCERN ABOUT FRONTLINE STATES MEETING

1. PHILIP MANSFIELD CAME TO SEE ME AT EMBASSY GABORONE THIS  
AFTERNOON TO REVIEW SOME OF THE BRITISH THINKING ABOUT RHODESIA  
AND TO ASK HIS REAL REASON, IS SUSPECT WHETHER I THOUGHT  
THERE WAS ANYTHING THEUSG MIGHT DO TO URGE THE  
FRONTLINE STATES TO AVOID TAKING UNHELPFUL POSITIONS AT UPCOMING  
LUSAKA MEETING OF MATIONALISTS AND FRONTLINE STATES. HE THOUGHT

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THERE WAS DANGER OF MEETING TAKING LINE OF ITS MOST RADICAL  
PARTICIPANTS AND COMING OUT WITH SOME KIND OF STATEMENT  
ENDORING CONTINUATION OF GUERRILLA WARFARE.

2. GIVEN THE DEVELOPING THRUST OF RICHARD'S MISSION, I.E. TO  
TRY TO WIN VORSTER AND SMITH OVER TO THE BRITISH PROPOSALS BY  
OBTAINING ASSURANCE THAT GUERRILLA WARFARE WOULD CEASE UPON THE

INSTALLATION OF AN AGREED INTERIM GOVERNMENT, THE BRITISH  
FEAR THAT THE LUSAKA MEETING COULD BE RACIAL.

UNHELPFUL STATEMENTS ABOUT CONTINUING THE WAR WOULD TEND TO CONFIRM  
SMITH IN HIS RESISTANCE TO THE BRITISH PROPOSALS. IF THE AFRICANS  
COULD BE PERSUADED TO HOLD OUT HOPE FOR A CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES,  
ON THE OTHER HAND, THIS WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY HAVE A BENEFICIAL  
EFFECT UPON VORSTER AND POSSIBLY ALSO ON SMITH.

3. MANSFIELD FELT THAT VORSTER'S POSITION ON THE  
RHODESIAN QUESTION WAS QUITE LOGICAL, THAT VORSTER BELIEVED HE  
HAD STUCK HIS NECK OUT FAR ENOUGH IN GETTING SMITH TO AGREE  
TO THE FIVE POINTS AND WAS NOT WILLING TO STICK IT OUT FURTHER  
WITHOUT SOMETHING TO SHOW FOR IT.  
IT IS THE BRITISH HOPE THAT AN END OF GUERILLA WARFARE  
WOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY ATTRACTIVE TO WIN VORSTER'S SUPPORT.

4. I ASKED WHAT IT WAS THAT MADE RICHARD THINK THAT SMITH  
MIGHT ALSO BE ATTRACTED ENOUGH TO RECONSIDER HIS  
REJECTION OF THE BRITISH IDEAS FOR AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT AND  
QUERIED HIM SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE ORIGINS OF A FRONT PAGE  
STORY IN THE BULWAYO "CHRONICLE" THAT SAID:  
"IT COULD NOW BE LIKELY THAT AFTER HIS KEY VISIT  
TO SOUTH AFRICAN MR. RICHARD COULD SEEK ASSURANCES  
FROM THE BLACK PRESIDENTS THAT THEY COULD PROVE TO MR. SMITH THEIR  
ABILITY TO STOP OR DRASTICALLY REDUCE THE WAR. WITH SUCH AS-  
SURANCES, MR. RICHARD COULD TRY TO PERSUADE MR SMITH TO SEE MERIT  
IN HIS PROPOSALS WHEN HE RETURNS TO SALISBUR."

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5. MANSFIELD AGREED THAT THE "CHRONICLE" ARTICLE WAS ON  
TARGET BUT DID NOT KNOW ITS ORIGIN. HE SAID THE SUBJECT OF ENDING  
HOSTILITIES WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY DISCUSSED WITH SMITH AND THOUGHT  
THAT RICHARD CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THIS MIGHT BE THE ONLY  
WAY TO GET SMITH TO CONSIDER THE BRITISH PROPOSALS AFTER HE HAD  
MET A NUMBER OF OTHER RHODESIANS, ALL OF WHOM WERE GREATLY  
CONCERNED ABOUT THE INCREASING TOLL OF THE WAR.  
HE MENTIONED THE FACT THAT PAT BISHFORD'S SON WAS KILLED ON  
CHRISTMAS DAY AND SAID THAT RICHARD AND HIS PARTY HAD DETECTED  
GROWING PUBLIC CONCERN IN RHODESIAN ABOUT CASUALTIES AMONG THE  
ARMED FORCES.

6. BECAUSE THE DESIRE OF ALL PARTIES FOR A CESSATION OF WARFARE  
OFFERS THE BEST HOPE FOR KEEPING NEGOTIATIONS ALIVE, MANSFIELD  
BELIEVED AN EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO URGE THE FRONTLINE LEADERS TO  
AVOID FURTHER COMMITMENT TO WAR WHEN THEY MEET IN LUSAKA ON  
SATURDAY. HE ASKED AGAIN IF THE US MIGHT BE ABLE TO UNDERTAKE  
REPRESENTATIONS AND WONDERED IF I MIGHT BE PLANNING TO SEE  
BOTSWANA FOREIGN MINISTER MOGWE. I REPLIED THAT I HAD NO

INSTRUCTIONS TO UNDERTAKE ANY INITIATIVES WITH THE AFRICAN  
GOVERNMENTS BUT WOULD REPORT HIS OBSERVATIONS AND QUESTION TO THE  
DEPARTMENT. (RICHARD IS SEEING MOGWE AT WORKING DINNER LATER  
TONIGHT AND WILL SEE KHAMA TOMORROW MORNING.)  
NORLAND

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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